

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Cathy Tymniak Named to New Juvenile Committee



State Rep. Cathy C. Tymniak, R-133, Fairfield, Westport, has been named to a new Juvenile Jurisdiction Planning and Implementation Committee to plan changes in court jurisdiction over 16- and 17-year olds on issues such as delinquency from school and other matters. She was appointed to the position by House Minority Leader Robert M. Ward, R-86, North Branford.

For many years, Rep. Tymniak has worked on legislation dealing with 16- and 17-year-old young people who are at risk of dropping out of school and becoming involved with drugs, crime and pregnancy.

“Parents have come forward many times asking for help to locate runaway children, and bring them home before they fall victim to abuse or violence,” said Rep. Tymniak. “In the past, the police and the courts have been powerless to help.”

The Juvenile Jurisdiction Planning and Implementation Committee, created by legislation passed this year, is charged with planning for the “implementation of any changes in the juvenile justice system that would be required in order to extend jurisdiction in delinquency matters and proceedings to include sixteen-year old and seventeen-year old children within the Superior Court For Juvenile Matters.”

The 20-member committee is required to report its findings, including any recommendations for proposed legislation, to the appropriate legislative committees by February 1st, 2007.

Rep. Tymniak said 16- and 17-year-olds had fallen into a grey area where they are neither adults nor children in the eyes of the law. Rep. Tymniak has repeatedly proposed legislation to assist troubled youth. Legislation adopted this year creates this committee to plan for placing troubled youths under the jurisdiction of Superior Court for Juvenile Matters, a separate court for juvenile issues.

Rep. Tymniak is a member of the Appropriations Committee’s subcommittee on judicial and corrections. She is also a former member of the legislature’s Children’s Committee. She currently serves as a member of the legislature’s budget-writing Appropriations Committee, the Government Administration and Elections Committee and the Banks Committee, of which she is ranking member.

